

THE SUN

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without exact statistics as to the possibilities of reversal elsewhere:

"If, then, the question is pending in several of the States sufficient in number of themselves or joined with the State of New York to reduce the number ratifying the Eighteenth Amendment below the necessary three-fourths, it would seem to be the duty of the State of New York, not only to its own citizens but to the citizens of other States, to state what its true opinion is, and whether there has been any change in the circumstances or its opinion since the resolution was passed ratifying the proposed amendment to the Constitution."

The proposition for a vote to reconsider and hold a referendum therefore depends entirely upon the contingency that the Supreme Court may decide that in a certain number of States the supposed ratification has been irregular and invalid. That may or may not be. Unless the Court so decides there is no room or reason for a withdrawal by the New York Legislature from its former action regarding the amendment. If the Court does so decide, in the case of a sufficient number of States to impair the general ratification, or if the Court's decision of the other important questions which have been raised tends to nullify or mollify the application of the Eighteenth Amendment, the reversal of New York's vote will not come in season or be needed to accomplish either purpose. It seems therefore a somewhat far fetched project, depending for its realization on many things now wrapped in the subjective mood.

We can understand the desire of Governor Smith, and of other earnest and honest believers in personal liberty in the choice of liquids, to put New York, if possible, on record against prohibition in the spirit in which prohibition now seems likely to be enforced. This, however, is going a long way around. Even if the situation in other States, as tentatively contemplated by the Governor's proposal, should be judicially so construed as to open the way to a vote by the Legislature rescinding last year's vote of ratification, the fact remains as before that the Constitution provides no method of ratification by the whole people.

The Constitution of the United States neither contemplates nor recognizes any referendum of the sort proposed by the Governor. It provides only two methods of ratification; namely, by direct vote of the Legislature and by vote of a specially called convention for that purpose. The method to be adopted in every State (New York of course included) is constitutionally prescribed by the resolution submitting the proposed amendment. In the case of the Eighteenth Amendment the constitutionally prescribed method is by vote of the Legislature.

Pay & re, Steam or No Steam.

Since the war began the greatest trouble with this country, perhaps its only deep seated trouble, has been the decline of the morale of American workers. Men who can get their pay without earning it have ceased to want to earn it. Men able to hold their jobs merely by sitting on the job have forgotten how to work. An extract from a report of a traveling salesman of a New York business house is an example of what is going on not merely among the railroad workers under Government operation but in a thousand and one situations where American energy becomes paralyzed by wages without work; and American manhood, seeking and needing to give no return for what it gets, sinks to the degeneracy of the pauperized loafer.

"Coming from Omaha to Mason City on the Great Western, I think the train number was 16, we were having more or less engine trouble, due to inferior coal. I can't give you the technical explanation, but anyway the coal caused the fire to clog and made necessary more or less work on the part of the fireman. We were about four hours late, and finally, between two towns, Mr. Fireman quit cold. Said, 'Hell with her, drew his money, steam or no steam.' 'Luckily, one of the passengers knew something of firing, so he went forward and cleaned the fire, got them burning properly and then the fireman went back on his job. Twice this happened and both times it was necessary for the passenger to do the work."

"As it happened to be on Sunday I was not delayed any, but had it been a week day the Company would have contributed about fifteen dollars in time lost by me while our high salaried fireman sat on the warm side of the cab and a passenger did the work."

On any such economic basis as that on which we have been operating the economic machinery of the nation for too long a time—with rising wages and falling production—American industry, American business, American bread and butter must run into disaster.

Could the Labor Leaders Stop the Mania for Luxuries?

Dean Johnson of the School of Commerce of New York University says something which is true, even if it is not new, when he says:

"If every one, especially the workers, would stop buying the most expensive things they can find—living high, in other words—the high cost of living would be greatly reduced."

spending it. In the Atlantic Monthly Canon, Whittier tells of seeing a shipyard laborer open his silk shirt and show his silk undershirt to the crowd. "I paid \$18 for this," he cried, "and I am never going to wear anything worse." That of course was in the days when the Government itself was outbidding the private employer and making possible the inflation which unfortunately did not disappear with war. Also, not all the wage earners of to-day have the mad notion that they can produce \$5 worth of goods a day and spend \$10 a day forever.

Unfortunately for the spread of the truth which Dean Johnson and others have uttered, these words of wisdom have been understood by those who have no great need to hear them—the New Poor. Far from buying \$18 underwear, they are hard put to it to buy enough cotton garments at \$1. They are the American group of what Lord Bismarck, who sees the same conditions in England, recently described as "the most thrifty and self-sacrificing class in the whole country; people who stint themselves sometimes almost of the necessities of life in order that they may give their sons a better chance at school and college."

It is into the pockets of these people, here and in England, that prices dig most painfully wherever there is inflation. If this class, the professional people of small incomes, is ever destroyed, Lord Bismarck says, it can never be replaced; yet it is being slowly ground to powder.

The spendthrift group of to-day believes its leaders whenever they say that wages should be higher. Would they believe if the labor leaders told them over and over that the mania for luxury is not only keeping prices up but threatening property? If they would believe, why don't the leaders tell them with all the earnestness which they display when they are denouncing wage increases or calling for strikes?

Presenting Revolutionists Is Not a New Business for Americans.

Some persons think or pretend to think the present prosecution of men and women who attempt by violence to overthrow democratic institutions in the United States is evidence of national hysteria. Nothing could be further from the fact.

If there is one fixed and enduring principle of politics in this country it is the principle which decrees that changes in our system of government shall be brought about by peaceful means, and not by violence; by ballots, not by bullets.

From Shays's rebellion in 1787 through such episodes as the whiskey insurrection in 1794, when the Republic was weak, to the civil war, when the right to secede was denied for all time, and subsequently in incidents like the prosecutions growing out of the Haymarket riots, popular will has consistently dictated to its legislative representatives the enactment of statutes for the punishment of those who refuse to abide by the laws and to its executive the enforcement of these statutes as occasion required.

It is a strange disclosure of ignorance frequently made by apologists for revolutionists that they fail to perceive the significance of the guaranty given by the United States in the Constitution to each of the several States that each State shall be protected in a republican form of government.

The most cursory study of the laws of the United States and of the several States will show that the prosecution of outthroat agitators and picklock statesmen were now witnessing is the logical result of a mature policy of self-preservation older than the Republic, which springs directly from the determination of the people to protect themselves and their institutions from usurpers, autocrats and despots, no matter whence they come, and to preserve democracy as the instrument through which mankind may enjoy the blessings of liberty under the law.

Because an unusual number of fools, madmen and manipulators of the weak and malicious are now at large the Federal and State Governments naturally are unusually active in enforcing the statutes enacted to give effect to the popular will, but their activity is not evidence of the adoption of a new policy toward the enemies of democracy.

It is evidence of the unshaken purpose of the American people to maintain their institutions vigorous and unimpaired, and to live under majority rule.

Positive Facts.

No gold has been coined in the United Kingdom since October, 1917.

Alfalfa feed costs 75 per cent. more this year than it did last year.

In Chicago it is estimated that ten years will be required to make good the deficiency in housing accommodation.

The French Government is being urged to develop the agricultural resources of Morocco.

The monument to Francis Daniel Pastorek in Germantown, Pa., has been wrapped in canvas since the war began, but will soon be unveiled.

At the final battle of General Allenby's campaign in Palestine the number of Jews serving under him far exceeded the number of Christians.

It is estimated that the 1919-1920 cane and beet sugar crops will produce 16,000,000 tons, against 15,319,354 tons in 1918-1919 and 15,250,243 in 1917-1918.

Head hunting and cannibalism have been suppressed in Celebes, and the reformed natives now show interest in not doing except chewing betel, lime and tobacco.

The late Arthur New, medical missionary in Kashmir, was held in such high repute by the natives they expected instantaneous relief from their diseases under his treatment.

Other travelers and investigators who have recently come out of Serbia bring much the same encouraging reports of the nation's return to pre-war conditions. Serbia is an agricultural country and her chief resources are derived from the peasant farms. Much live stock was carried away, but the peasants saved considerably by hiding it in the forests and caves when commencing war in progress, so that there is, as one investigator

reports, "by no means so small an amount of live stock in the country as might have been expected."

The country generally looks prosperous. The farms often were kept running by the women, and many men exiled during the war returned to find that in their absence their wives and children had retained their hold upon the land and had cultivated it despite the obstacles placed in their way by the invaders. This year there were raised bountiful crops of corn and wheat; in the Vranje region hemp was successfully grown, and there was a good production of tobacco and opium poppies in Macedonia.

Of these agricultural resources Serbia is assured. One of the effects of the war, however, has been to bring the nation to a realization of the necessity of the development of its other sources of wealth. Serbia is now looking to her extensive forests, which in the past had suffered from neglect, and to the abundance of coal which can be mined under easy working conditions. Her copper mine at Bor, worked by the French, is said to be one of the richest in the world; there have also been discovered paying deposits of gold, silver, lead and antimony. Serbia has a wealth too in her medicinal waters found in various parts of the country, and she hopes that when the after war tourists start they will look at the scenery of old Serbia, the mountain land along the Bosnian border, in the neighborhood of Lake Ochrida, which has been described as one of the most beautiful regions of Europe.

There is, however, the other side of the question. The few manufacturing factories that she had have been destroyed and the machinery carried away or wrecked by her enemies, her politics is a mess through a bitter struggle between the supporters and opponents of former Premier Pashitch, and her finances are a serious problem, chiefly owing to Austrian money, which was put in circulation in Serbia during the war.

But Serbia has tackled her problem with the hopefulness and spirit of youth. The damage done by the bombardment of Belgrade is being rapidly repaired by the rebuilding of devastated sections and repaving of the streets. The shop windows, for four years boarded up, are now filled with new goods. The true test of restoration of conditions in the Serb capital is that the parade of well dressed Belgraders between Terasia and the hilltop park overlooking the Danube and Save again takes place every evening, according to a correspondent of the *Nineteenth Century*. He also says that out in the country he saw "long rows of white clothed peasant women hoeing the corn and sowing at their work." Serbia, the first and severest sufferer by the war, has furnished a noble example of rehabilitation through her own determination and hard work.

The Dynamic Kelly for Congress?

If Mr. LA GUARDIA's advice should be followed and the Hon. MICHAEL DYNAMITE KELLY nominated for Congress in the Fourteenth district on the Republican ticket Major KELLY would hold the American record for swift transit from party to party.

The great KELLY was a Democrat until last fall, when, neglected by his own party, he formed the Liberty party and ran for President of the Board of Aldermen against Mr. LA GUARDIA, Republican, and Mr. MORAN, Tammany. Although kept off the official ballot Major KELLY polled 3,661 votes. As Mr. LA GUARDIA beat Mr. MORAN by only 1,178 votes there was obvious justification in Major KELLY's telegram to Leader MURPHY on election night: "See what I did to you!"

If KELLY runs for Congress his opponent will at least know that he has "been to the races."

It is curious that nobody has challenged in the Supreme Court the right of census men to ask a lady's age.

If there is no beer there will be no beer kegs and therefore no bungs. Must juvenile hockey players buy pucks?

Brooklyn has just seen what used to be known as "Jersey Justice." A murder was committed on December 13, the murderer was caught on December 20, was brought to trial on January 6, and was sentenced to January 6. When he is sentenced to tomorrow less than a month will have elapsed between crime and condemnation. Good police work, good prosecutor's work, no court delays, justice swift but regular—these are what the people wish to see.

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"OBJECTIONABLE" TENANTS.

Out They Go When a Greedy Landlord "Deems" and Dooms.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The extraordinary decision recently rendered by the Appellate Term sustaining the right of a landlord to remove tenants because he deems them "objectionable" and referred to in your editorial column is, in even more serious than at first it appears.

Under this decision a large percentage of apartment dwellers in this city may be speedily thrown out into the street for absolutely no reason other than that the landlord "deems" the tenant "objectionable."

This is not a fanciful situation is evidenced by the fact that clients of mine are already among the first victims and are now living in a hotel, where they have been hurriedly forced to move.

Following the precedent set by this decision Mr. Justice Murray, in the Municipal Court of this city, issued an order dismissing my clients (although their lease still had practically a year to run) for no other reason than the landlord had "deemed" their conduct "objectionable" and had given the five days notice terminating the tenancy by reason thereof.

Following the decision of the Appellate Term the learned judge sustained the decision of the trial judge held that the question as to whether there was in fact any objectionable conduct on the part of the tenant was not pertinent and could not be inquired into, although my clients are concededly eminently respectable people, and that the mere "deeming" by the landlord that their conduct was "objectionable" was sufficient and conclusive in itself.

The lease in question covered a Riverside Drive apartment and was made last May an advantageous rental. In September the landlord leased the whole building to a third party. Finding that the apartment now could be let at a much larger rental the new profiteering landlord immediately "deemed" the conduct of the tenants "objectionable" and instituted proceedings to dispossess.

One would naturally think that the harassed and lowly tenant might remain in the premises pending an appeal, but the violation of the provisions of our Code of Civil Procedure will show that the tenant is helpless and that the courts are expressly prohibited from granting a stay, even though a tenant may be able to furnish bond in an unlimited amount.

Of course once the tenant is forced out there is very little satisfaction or benefit in pursuing an appeal. Hence the profiteering landlord reaps his increased profits and the layman wonders if he or she will not possess some advantages after the war.

This decision leaves the citizen of the city at the mercy of a horde of profiteers, and it is putting it most mildly to say that speedy and concerted action on the part of the public and the press is necessary to remedy this outrageous situation.

LEX.

New York, January